

RECREATIONAL FIRES
REMEMBER TO CONSIDER
YOUR NEIGHBORS



Recreational fires are permitted in Bloomington, as in all counties in Minnesota, and continue to be a source of entertainment and relaxation. However, under the wrong conditions, one resident's enjoyment can become another resident's annoyance. Before starting a recreational fire, remember the three W's of the City ordinance: *when, where* and *wood*.

When

- Recreational fires may only be conducted between 7 a.m. and midnight and when the wind speed is less than 10 miles per hour.
- A recreational fire must be extinguished immediately if a City official determines it is creating a fire safety hazard.

Where

- Fires must be located 25 feet away from any structures or combustible materials.
- Fires must be constantly attended to by a person within sight of the flames.
- Fire extinguishing equipment must be readily available.

Wood

- City ordinance limits fuel for recreational fires to dry, clean wood such as cordwood or Presto logs.
- Burning wood that has leaves or needles or wood that is rotten, wet or treated with paint or glue is prohibited. These materials produce excessive smoke and odor.
- Starter fuels consisting of dry, untreated kindling or charcoal starter may be used, but never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Firewood stacks must not exceed three feet wide by two feet high.
- Remember to use only local wood to prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borers.

For more information, call Fire Prevention at 952-563-8933.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS:
RECREATIONAL FIRES.



FIRE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION



Did you know that once or twice a year, the Bloomington Fire Department (BFD) drives one of its largest ladder trucks right into the Mall of America? The BFD visits the Mall to conduct mock rescue scenarios involving a Nickelodeon Universe theme park ride.

This past June, 35 Bloomington firefighters and eight Edina firefighters conducted a training drill using the Tak Attack ride. Formerly called the Mighty Axe, the Tak Attack thrill ride flips riders upside down and towers more than 10 stories above the ground.

“We worked for about five hours on what would happen in different scenarios,” Bloomington Fire Chief Ulie Seal said. “The drill also entailed positioning one of Bloomington’s ladder trucks in the amusement park.”

According to Seal, mock rescue scenarios are needed to familiarize first responders with the larger rides in the unlikely case that one of them malfunctions and riders need to be rescued. Rides chosen for the drills are larger rides that have limited access from the ground.

For more information, contact the BFD at 952-563-4801.



MEET VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER DIANE PURCELL

The Bloomington Fire Department has an average response time of only 4.1 minutes and is one of the largest volunteer fire departments in the nation. Just one of the 140 volunteer firefighters working to keep you safe, Diane Purcell answers questions below.

How long have you been a firefighter?	I’ve been a firefighter for nine years. I’m also a Fire Prevention Officer at Station 4, which means I go to schools, churches, daycares and other places to teach fire safety. My husband John is also a firefighter.
What do you tell the kids you teach?	As a mom of two boys, I know how to talk to kids about the importance of having a home plan and how to be safe. I teach them how to call 911 and stop, drop and roll.
What made you decide to become a firefighter?	I saw an advertisement in the <i>Sun Current</i> , so I went to the City’s website and applied. My uncle is a retired Rochester firefighter. He thought it was a great deal.
Do you find your job challenging?	Yes. I find my job really fun, too. Doing a good job is most important to me, especially being a woman. I’m a strong person, but sometimes I still feel like I have to prove myself. I remember my first fire in 2000 at the old Decathlon Athletic Club and Hotel, where the Water Park of America is now located. It was a huge fire. I didn’t want to get out of the truck. I was scared, but I had a lot of support. Now when I get off the truck, I’m confident.
Do you have a day job?	I work Monday through Friday at Station 4 and seasonally for Sun Country Airlines as a de-icer at the airport. I also work as a hair stylist at Great Clips. I like my jobs because I can make my own hours. And I’m a mom. That’s work too.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: JOIN FIRE DEPARTMENT.



WEBSITE GOES TO THE DOGS (AND CATS!)
ADOPTABLE ANIMALS ONLINE

The City’s website is now more pet-friendly. A new Animal Control page on the City’s website includes a listing of the Animal Shelter’s adoptable pets. Check out descriptions and photos of cats and dogs available for adoption right from your computer.

Nearly 600 domestic and non-domestic animals from Bloomington are impounded at the animal shelter each year. Most animals are released back to their owners, but some need permanent homes. If you’re looking to add a pet to your family, consider adopting from the Bloomington Animal Shelter. Availability varies. Check the website often for updates.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ANIMAL ADOPTION.



WILD BLOOMINGTON
KNOW WHEN TO CALL
ANIMAL CONTROL

Many animals such as deer, fox, opossums, wild turkeys, raccoons, squirrels and other wildlife call Bloomington home.

Each year the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) receives calls regarding wild animals. While wild animals contribute to our enjoyment of nature, they may also damage property and threaten human health and safety. BPD animal control officers will respond to wild animal calls under the following conditions:

- **Immediate hazard** – An animal is interfering with your ability to gain access to a private or public property.
- **Sick or injured wildlife** – Police response is determined by the degree of injury and the animal’s species.
- **Threat to public safety** – An animal showing aggressive behavior or suspected of having rabies.

To control the presence of wildlife in your area, do not feed animals; make sure all outdoor trash container lids are sealed tightly and keep door and window screens in good condition.

For more information, call Animal Control at 952-563-4942.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WILD ANIMALS.